

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Hurricane Response Activities

Workforce System Results
December 31, 2005

Public-Private Partnership Launched to Help Mississippians Work Their Way Back Home

U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao announced an expanded partnership between Manpower Inc. and the State of Mississippi on October 6 that will help Mississippi workers displaced by Hurricane Katrina find new jobs in high growth, high-demand careers. Workers will be eligible for “Working Your Way Back Home Portfolios,” which include available resources and services provided at One-Stop Career Centers in Mississippi. Additionally, Manpower, a national partner with the public workforce investment system since 2002, will issue a “Career Passport” to qualifying individuals that will certify their industry-recognized skills and work readiness. This public-private partnership represents an innovative approach to re-employing dislocated workers and serves as a potential model for other hurricane-affected states.

Pathways to Construction Employment

On November 30, ETA announced the Pathways to Construction Employment Initiative: Linking Workers with Construction Career Opportunities. This initiative consists of two grants worth \$9,998,800 to the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and the Mississippi Department of Employment Security to promote the economic recovery of these states in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This initiative focuses on training 7,700 workers in areas impacted by the hurricanes so they can enter a career pathway in construction and assist with critical rebuilding efforts in the Gulf Coast Region. The four primary components are establishment of Reconstruction Centers of Excellence, career awareness and outreach activities, assessment and access to basic skills training, and developing pathways to employment including apprenticeship. The grants will target the residential, commercial, industrial, and heavy highway construction sectors, as well as shipbuilding and heavy marine construction.



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